

**STATE SENATOR • GILDA Z. JACOBS • 14<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT**

# **Jacobs Press Release**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **SENATOR JACOBS BACKS INCREASED FUNDING FOR MASS TRANSIT, ROAD IMPROVEMENTS**

LANSING – Sen. Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) today introduced a Senate Joint Resolution that would allow a public transportation authority to levy a supplemental sales tax within the limits of the county it serves. The resolution calls for a possible half-cent tax for transit, and an additional half-cent for roads.

“We have long been advocating for a Southeast Michigan transportation system that would be a model of regional transportation, while lessening our dependence on mid-east oil,” Jacobs said. “It’s time to move forward on the issue of public transportation so we can compete with other states for the jobs and commerce that have eluded us. In addition, the funding would provide needed road improvements.”

This supplemental tax could only be levied with the approval of a majority of the registered voters residing in the affected public authority. Most metro regions in United States have similar rapid transit components funded by a regional sales tax .

The Jacobs resolution would require a two-thirds majority approval from both houses of the Legislature before going to voters for their approval. The Michigan Constitution does not allow citizens to consider non-property tax public investment in transit. Thus, the constitutional amendment (joint resolution) is necessary to make this step possible.

“Michigan has been in the same development pattern for the past 50 years,” said Senator Jacobs. “We need new strategies and tools if we are going to successfully tackle our infrastructure and economic disadvantages.

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*State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, and Southfield. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees*